

AC.4412(2) WEALD OF KENT

WEALD OF KENT HEALTH AREA

1951.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

by

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

A. W. GAYE, B.A., M.B., B.C., D.P.H. (Cantab.)

M.B., Ch.B. (Mancun).

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W E A L D O F K E N T H E A L T H A R E A .

1951.

P U B L I C H E A L T H R E P O R T .

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WEALD OF KENT HEALTH AREA.

TO THE WEALD OF KENT HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have pleasure in presenting the twelfth Annual Report for the Weald Health Area.

The Statutory Joint Committee for the year was constituted as follows :-

Chairman.

Capt. E. Boulding

TENTERDEN BOROUGH.

Mrs. E.A. Adams  
Dr. R. McLaren

CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT.

Capt. E. Boulding  
Dr. H. Arnold Cole  
J.K. Benton, Esq.,

MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT.

W. Day, Esq.,  
T.S. Scott, Esq.,  
Major E.W. Tassell

TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

H.J. Allsop, Esq., J.P.,  
L.V. Homewood, Esq., C.C.,

-----  
Clerk to the Committee - P.G. Banfield, Esq.,  
Office ..... - The Hill, Cranbrook.  
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This, the report for 1951 and the twelfth of the series, constitutes the last report for the joint Area. The Weald of Kent Health Area was formed in 1940 when the four districts were separated from the Tonbridge and Southborough area. It is now being split up again, and the districts tacked on to other areas. Tenterden Borough and Tenterden Rural District are attached to Ashford Urban and its accessory Districts, and Cranbrook Rural District to Tunbridge Wells, whilst Maidstone Rural District will eventually be joined with Maidstone Borough, Hollingbourne and Malling Rural Districts, for health purposes. Except as regards the last the Medical Officer will be entirely outside the district and the same personal service cannot be expected. In addition, the areas served will be so large that it is unlikely that more than three per cent of the Officer's time can be given to any district, especially in cases where he is also Area Officer.

The Medical Officer of Health to the Joint Area retired on December 23rd of the year, but continues to serve the Maidstone Rural District until the end of 1952.

The mid-year population was estimated to have increased from 43,650 to 43,792; but the census shows it to be 43,173, an increase of 5,142 since the census of 1931. There is an increase of just less than 1,000 in the Borough of Tenterden and Rural Districts of Cranbrook and Tenterden, but of 3,000 in the semi-urbanised Maidstone Rural District.

The number of inhabited houses increased by 478 during the year. A considerable amount of reconditioning - found necessary under the Rural Housing Survey - has been accomplished following notices served by the Local Authorities. A small number of houses have been demolished or an undertaking received to the effect that they will not be again used for human habitation.





A number of sewerage schemes, sorely needed in the interests of Public Health, are in hand, but many still await starting dates on the priority list. There is again an increase in the amount of labour spent in emptying cesspools, and this cannot be reduced until the necessary sewerage works and drains are available.

Births in the area again showed a decrease (6.6%), only one district showing a slight increase. The birth-rate (15.35) compares favourably with that for England and Wales (15.5).

Deaths increased from 507 to 538, with a corresponding increase in the death-rate (12.29 - England and Wales 12.5).

The number (15) of Infant Deaths, (mainly under four weeks old) was 25% more than in 1950, but still remains below the average (23) of the previous ten years.

It is notable that the Borough of Tenterden has had no Infant Deaths for three successive years.

There was a further increase (17%) in deaths from cancer in the area as a whole, and an increase from influenza in one district.

Notifications of <sup>pulmonary</sup> tuberculosis decreased and deaths from this cause were less than in the previous year.

The amount of infectious disease was remarkable, notifications being four times as many as in 1950 and three times the average of the last twelve years. Epidemics of measles and whooping-cough were responsible for the increase, and one death from each of these diseases was recorded.

There were only a few cases of acute poliomyelitis and no deaths. Tenterden Borough has remained free from this disease for twenty eight years.

It is good to be able to record that there were no notifications of diphtheria in either adults or children, the first time since the introduction of anti-diphtheria immunisation. Nevertheless immunisation figures remain below the desired level.

It is satisfactory that there were no outbreaks of 'food-poisoning'.

The steady improvement noticed year-by-year in hop-picker camps continues, though some pickers do not appear to care in what sort of a state they leave the camp.

The increase in small shops wishing to sell ice-cream continues, but the retaining of unsold ice-cream for a considerable time after the summer season is to be deprecated. The work involved in inspection has increased 42%.

I wish to express my thanks to the Sanitary Inspectors who have given me their willing co-operation during my term of office.

In conclusion, I should also like to express my thanks to the Authorities who have been helpful to me and for their kindness even when the advice I was able to give them on Public Health matters could not always be adopted.

I am, Sirs,  
Yours obediently,

'Kingswear',  
CRANBROOK,  
Kent.

A. W. GAYL.



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STATISTICS.

	TENTERDEN BOROUGH.	CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT.	MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT.	TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT.	WEALD HEALTH AREA.
AREA (Acres)	8,946	41,315	34,709	38,002	122,972
RATEABLE VALUE (as at 1.4.52)	£28,871	80,527	99,036	32,818	241,252
Sum rep. by ld. rate .....	£ 112	£315.14.11.	387	130	944 (av. £236)
NUMBER INHABITED HOUSES .....	1,309	4,531	5,637	2,383	13,860
POPULATION.					
Census 1931	3,472	12,927	15,317	6,315	38,031
Mid 1951	4,174	14,620	17,980	7,018	43,792
Census 1951	4,225	13,788	18,072	7,088	43,173
LIVE BIRTHS.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
Legitimate	36 18	95 96	145 135	57 54	333 303
Illegitimate	2 1	9 4	9 5	1 5	21 15
Total	38 19	104 100	154 140	58 59	354 318
	57	204	294	117	672
BIRTH RATE.					
Crude	13.66	13.95	16.35	16.67	15.35
Comparable	14.89	15.90	16.51	17.67	16.50
STILLBIRTHS.					
Legitimate	3 -	- 2	2 1	- -	5 3
Illegitimate	- -	- -	1 -	- -	1 -
Total	3	2	4	-	9
DEATHS(all causes)	25 30	96 93	118 96	44 36	283 255
Total	55	189	214	80	538
DEATH RATE.					
Crude	13.18	12.93	11.90	11.40	12.29
Comparable	8.83	11.64	9.76	9.06	9.71
INFANT DEATHS.					
(under 1 yr.)					
Legitimate	- -	1 -	7 2	2 1	10 3
Illegitimate	- -	2 -	- -	- -	2 -
Total	-	3	9	3	15
(under 4 weeks)					
Legitimate	- -	1 -	3 2	1 1	5 3
Illegitimate	- -	2 -	- -	- -	2 -
Total	-	3	5	2	10
DEATH RATE OF INFANTS.	-	14.71	30.61	25.64	22.32
DEATHS from TUBERCULOSIS.					
Respiratory.	- -	3 1	3 2	- 1	6 4
Non-Respiratory	- 1	- -	- 1	- -	- 2
Total	1	4	6	1	12
CANCER.					
(all ages)	4 3	10 19	19 21	8 7	41 50
Total	7	29	40	15	91
PNEUMONIA.	4 1	5 -	5 2	- -	14 3
INFLUENZA.	- -	2 1	6 4	2 1	10 6





COMMENTS ON THE STATISTICS.

POPULATION. There was an increase of 142 in the estimated population, of 478 in inhabited houses, and of £3,061 in rateable value.

The figures, given in the Preliminary Report on the 1951 Census, show an increase of 5,142 in the population of the area since the census of 1931, but the census figure for the year is 619 less than the mid-year estimated figure.

In the Borough of Tenterden and Rural District of Tenterden, there was a decrease in the population, and in these two and the Rural District of Cranbrook, the census shows a decrease as compared with the estimated figures for the previous year; while the Maidstone Rural District shows an increase by both the estimated and census figure.

The proportion of children in the area averages 23%, though it is slightly greater in the Cranbrook Rural District in association with the number of residential schools.

BIRTHS.

	Tenterden Borough.		Cranbrook Rural.		Maidstone Rural.		Tenterden Rural.		Weald Area.	
	No.	rate	No.	rate	No.	rate	No.	rate	No.	rate
1946	70	18.22	246	18.43	342	19.46	119	18.32	777	18.81
1947	67	16.72	274	20.36	365	20.21	125	18.70	831	19.69
1948	74	18.41	233	16.18	352	19.76	141	20.20	800	18.51
1949	64	15.32	238	16.27	294	16.78	126	17.62	722	16.61
1950	59	13.63	238	16.32	308	17.49	115	16.13	720	16.42
1951	57	13.66	204	13.95	294	16.35	117	17.67	672	15.35

Births decreased in all districts except Tenterden Rural in which there was a slight increase.

Over the area there is a considerable drop in the number of births, the greatest decrease being in the Cranbrook Rural District.

Tenterden Borough shows an increase in male and a decrease in female births (38/19 compared with 30/29 last year).

Cranbrook Rural District, which had a larger number of female than male births last year, shows a normal proportion this year.

There was a decrease of 25% in stillbirths, there being more in Tenterden Borough and none at all in the Tenterden Rural District.

DEATHS.

Over the area, deaths increased by 31, Tenterden Borough and Maidstone Rural District showing an increase and Cranbrook Rural District a decrease, with corresponding changes in the death-rate. The decrease in the Cranbrook Rural District is shown mainly in female deaths (93 - 103).

Infant Deaths.

There was an increase of 25% in infant deaths over the area, but Tenterden Borough for the third consecutive year had none, while in the Maidstone Rural District the number more than doubled compared with the previous year.

/Below



Comments on Statistics (Contd.)

Below are the numbers for the previous six years.

	Tenterden Borough	Cranbrook Rural	Maidstone Rural	Tenterden Rural	Weald Area.
1945	4	3	6	5	18
1946	4	10	9	4	27
1947	2	9	15	2	28
1948	1	3	12	5	21
1949	-	10	6	6	22
1950	-	5	4	3	12
1951	-	3	9	3	15

It will be seen that ~~though~~ there is an increase, <sup>but</sup> the number is well below the average of the previous ten years.

All the deaths of infants in the Cranbrook Rural District were of infants under 4 weeks old, whilst it was 65% and 60% respectively in the Maidstone and Tenterden Rural Districts.

Tuberculosis.

Deaths from tuberculosis remained the same as in the previous year, though there were two from non-pulmonary and a slight decrease of pulmonary cases. There was a decrease in the Tenterden Rural District (1 - 6) and an increase in the Maidstone Rural District (6 - 3).

Cancer.

Deaths from cancer showed an increase of 17%, mostly in the Maidstone Rural District with a slight decrease in Tenterden Borough and Cranbrook Rural District. Deaths from this cause were greater in females than males, and in Tenterden Borough there was a decrease in male with an increase in female deaths.

Deaths from pneumonia were less; the male deaths being increased and the female decreased.

There were double the number of deaths from influenza, mostly in the Maidstone Rural District.

There was one death from whooping-cough, one from measles, one from meningococcal infection and one from puerperal cause.





# HOUSING.

## TENTERDEN BOROUGH.

Repairs have been carried out to twelve houses.

At the end of the year, after revising the list, there were 153 applicants for houses, a decrease on the previous year. (It was found that quite a number of people had moved and found accommodation elsewhere, but had not informed the Council at the time).

## CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT.

100 new houses were completed during the year.

Agreement was reached with the owners for the demolition of two, and conversion of two cottages.

## MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT.

Reconditioning was secured in 8 cases by Statutory Notices under Section 11 of the Housing Act, and 52 notices were served under Section 9 for the carrying out of repairs.

17 demolition orders were made, and 8 houses were demolished.

Category V houses under the Rural Housing Survey continue to be dealt with by formal or informal action under Section 11 to secure reconditioning or demolition. It has been found necessary to downgrade a few houses from Category three to Category five.

Category	I	II	III	V	
	1173	1017	1050	254	Total = 3494.

## TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

20 Notices were served preliminary to statutory action, and 8 Statutory notices were sent out. Four houses were demolished and 4 closed.

The Rural Housing Survey has been completed for all houses of not more than £20. rateable value as follows :-

Category	I	II	III	V	
	448	654	608	118	Total = 1828.

39 of Category V houses have now been either demolished, closed for human habitation, or reconditioned and upgraded.

## SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

## TENTERDEN BOROUGH.

No change during the year.

## CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT.

Public Inquiries were held as regards sewerage schemes for Frittenden and Sissinghurst.

Work on the Kilndown scheme is in hand and is nearing completion.

/Maidstone



Sewerage and Drainage (Contd.)

MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT.

The Coxheath Disposal Works were completed and all houses in the hamlet of Coxheath, together with those in the Council estate and the Linton Hospital were connected up. Analyses of the effluent have been taken and examination has shown it satisfactory.

A scheme for Disposal Works at Linton was submitted to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government for approval. This scheme is urgently required to replace the works now in a derelict condition, and in order to enable drainage to be available for new houses.

There is also urgent need of a Drainage scheme for Loose in which the lack of proper Disposal Works remains a potential danger to the inhabitants of the village. A Drainage scheme was under consideration and approved by the Ministry quite a number of years ago, but owing to the outbreak of war, the carrying out of the work had to be postponed.

TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

Improvements were carried out to the Sewage Disposal Works at High Halden, Rolvenden Layne and Wittersham.

The schemes for six villages, approved by the Ministry of Health, have not yet been commenced. Starting dates are still awaited.

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# WATER SUPPLIES.

The following samples were taken for examination :-

		TENTERDEN BOROUGH		CRANBROOK R.D.		MAIDSTONE R.D.		TENTERDEN R.D.		WEALD HEALTH AREA.	
		a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
BACTERIO- LOGICAL	(Raw	3	2	1	1	13	12	9	-	26	15
	(Treated	9	1	19	2	16	-	15	1	59	4
CHEMICAL	(Raw	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
	(Treated	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	5	-

NOTE. (a) = number of samples taken, (b) = number unsatisfactory.

The percentage of houses with a piped supply is as follows :-

TENTERDEN BOROUGH	CRANBROOK R.D.	MAIDSTONE R.D.	TENTERDEN R.D.
85%	92%	95%	92%

## TENTERDEN BOROUGH.

Reading Street and parts of Swain Road are still without a piped water supply.

## CRANBROOK R.D.

Water main extensions to (1) Mill Street, Benenden, (2) Colliers Greeh, Cranbrook and (3) High Tilt, Sissinghurst have now been completed.

The Cranbrook School swimming pool again became in a most unsatisfactory condition during the summer term, and was closed to the public at the end of term.

## MAIDSTONE R.D.

In old Loose, properties on the line of the main but not previously joined, have now been connected to the mains supply installed.

Three of the unsatisfactory samples were from a private supply at Hunton; the source of contamination has been stopped: three were from a well in Staplehurst, and a treatment plant has been installed.

## TENTERDEN R.D.

The quantity of supply was satisfactory except at Wittersham, where some difficulty was experienced in the summer months. The Wittersham and Stone Pumping Station was closed down (since re-opened) and the Mid-Kent Water Company agreed to supply water. This proved not sufficient and a supplementary 4" main connecting the two supplies has been commenced, and when completed should greatly improve the position as regards quantity.

The usual instructions with reference to boiling were issued in cases of unsatisfactory well supplies.

The well, contaminated by kerosene last year, was still found contaminated in spite of cleansing.

/Correspondence





Water Supplies (Contd.)

Correspondence took place with the Cranbrook District Water Company (which supplies three of the districts in the area), who complained that there had been delay in notifying them of adverse reports on samples taken by the Rural Districts. On investigation, it was found that there had been no delay on any occasion in reporting the results to the Company by the Sanitary Department concerned.

In order to help matters, a consultation was held by the Medical Officer of Health with the County Pathologist, who agreed that results of adverse samples will be telephoned on the same day that they are known, followed by the written report by post.

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# MILK SUPPLIES.

The following table shows the number of milk distributors and dairies.

	Tenterden Borough.	Cranbrook Rural District.	Maidstone Rural District.	Tenterden Rural District.	Weald Area.
Distributors	3	18	34	5	60
Dairies	2	8	15	4	29

## TENTERDEN BOROUGH.

One new dairy was constructed.

## MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT.

Regular cleansing and lime-washing have been carried out and minor repairs made to dairies.

## CRANBROOK AND TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICTS.

No new dairies were built during the year.

Licenses to sell milk in the respective districts were granted as follows :-

	Tenterden Borough.	Cranbrook Rural District.	Maidstone Rural District.	Tenterden Rural District.	Weald Area.
Accredited	-	-	-	1	1
Tuberculin- tested	-	10	14	5	29
Pasteurised	2	5	14	1	22
Sterilised	-	9	21	-	30

The number of sellers of sterilised milk has doubled compared with 1950.

Given below are the results of examination of milk samples :-

	Tenterden Borough.	Cranbrook Rural District.	Maidstone Rural District.	Tenterden Rural District.	Weald Area.
From:-	No. Uns.	No. Uns.	No. Uns.	No. Uns.	No. Uns.
Undesignated herds	- -	- -	8 3	8 6	16 9
Tuberculin- tested	- -	14 3	12 2	29 2	55 7
Pasteurised	6 -	15 1	15 -	3 -	39 1
Sterilised	- -	- -	5 -	- -	5 -
For Tuber- culosis	- -	3 -	3 -	8 -	14 -

All the sampling above was of course either from dairies or of milk in transit to the consumer.

(Contd.)



Milk Supplies (Contd.)

The percentage of unsatisfactory samples of ordinary milk has much increased (55% against 13.6% last year); and those from tuberculin tested herds has almost doubled (nearly 13% - last year 7.4%).

There seems a tendency in some parts of the country to take the attitude that if the milk is going to be pasteurised it does not matter bulking less satisfactory milk with more satisfactory.





ICE CREAM.

The table below shows the numbers registered for the sale of ice-cream by the end of the year.

	Tenterden Borough.	Cranbrook Rural District	Maidstone Rural District.	Tenterden Rural District.	Weald Area.
Producer-Retailers	-	1	1	1	3
Retailers	16	33	35	20	104
Inspections	36	69	87	59	251

The number of sellers of ice-cream shows an increase of nearly 24% on the previous year, and there are now nearly three times as many as in 1948. Almost any small shop finds it profitable to sell it during the summer months. Strict supervision must be maintained on cleanliness and the methods of sale following the registration of premises found initially satisfactory for the sale of this food. The work in inspection and sampling has required four visits in every seven days of the year, an increase of 42%

Below is given the results of examination of samples taken by the Sanitary Inspectors :-

	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total
Tenterden Borough	23	7	4	2	36
Cranbrook Rural District	6	4	1	-	11
Maidstone Rural District	35	10	4	-	49
Tenterden Rural District	14	3	2	1	20
Totals	78	24	11	3	116

Nearly all the ice-cream sold in the area is manufactured elsewhere. Where samples on examination are found unsatisfactory, information is sent to the producing district, so that any action found necessary may be taken.

Following unsatisfactory samples in two districts in the autumn, special enquiries were made. The samples were grade IV and were all from the same source. There appeared to be some discrepancy between the results at the production end and those from retailers here, but it was definitely shown that stale ice-cream left over from the warmer months was still being sold. The Ministry was consulted and considerable correspondence took place with ice-cream experts, whose advice was much appreciated. Special enquiry was made as to the method of transit between producer and retailer; and following an adverse sample from a retailer in a third district early in the following year, an effort was made to take samples at the producing end and immediately following delivery to the retailer. This went wrong as the sample delivered was already a fortnight old. The Inspectors were instructed, when taking samples, to note the date of delivery to the retailer. But there seems no satisfactory method under the present regulations of dealing with stale ice-cream other than persuading the retailer to scrap it.

On the whole, however, the number of inferior samples appears to be decreasing, e.g.:-

	1948	1949	1950	1951
Number of samples	48*	75	136	116
Grade III	5*	11	35	11
Grade IV	7*	15	6	3

(Contd)





Ice-Cream (Contd.)\

\* samples from two districts only.

The decrease in the number of samples taken was mainly in the Cranbrook Rural District, though there is an increase in the number of retailers, but no decrease in the number of inspections.

-----oOo-----

NURSING HOMES.

The following table shows the number of Homes on the list at the end of the year :-

	Number of Homes.	Maternity Beds.	Other Beds..	Total Beds.
TENTERDEN BOROUGH	1	12	12	24
CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT.	3	-	27	27
MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT.	2	27	10	37*
TOTAL	6	39	49	88

\* and one bed reserved for isolation purposes.

All the above nursing homes were visited periodically during the year by the Medical Officer of Health.

There is also one nursing home in the Tenterden Rural District.

In the Cranbrook Rural District, one home has given up taking maternity cases.

There remains a lack of nursing and maternity Homes, and accommodation for old people in the area.



INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

DISEASE.	TENTERDEN BOROUGH.	CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT.	MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT.	TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT.	WEALD HEALTH AREA.
Scarlet Fever	-	43	8	5	56
Whooping Cough	2	139	270	7	418
Measles	186	292	416	248	1142
Pneumonia	-	13	24	-	37
Erysipelas	-	2	1	-	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	2	-	2
Paratyphoid Fever - B.	-	6	-	1	7
Dysentery	-	3*	4 <sup>ø</sup>	-	7
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	1	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	2	-	2
Gastro-enteritis	1	-	-	-	1
Totals	189	498	727	262	1676

\* One Sonne, one Salmonella Thompson, one Flexner Bacillus.

ø All Sonne.

1951 was an exceptional year as regards infectious disease. There were four times as many notifications received as in the previous year and three times the average of the last twelve years. During the twelve years the numbers were maintained chiefly by measles and whooping-cough. This year, beginning in two districts in December of the previous year, it spread to all districts in the case of measles and to two in the case of whooping-cough. It was not till the middle of the year that the epidemic of measles subsided, though earlier in the Maidstone Rural District followed by a big outbreak of whooping-cough in June, July, August and September.

There was also a considerable epidemic of chickenpox, but as this disease is not notifiable in this area the full picture cannot be presented.

There was little acute poliomyelitis and only one case of food poisoning, or two if the case of dysentery due to Salmonella is reclassified.

TENTERDEN BOROUGH.

It is necessary to go back as far as 1943 to find a comparable (164) epidemic of measles.

The Ministry of Health were interested in the fact that for twenty-eight years the Borough has been free from acute anterior poliomyelitis. (One resident of Tenterden died of the disease when on holiday in Devon in August, 1947. Though it is possible that it was contracted before going on holiday, this cannot be regarded as certain).

/Cranbrook





INFECTIOUS DISEASE (Contd.)

CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT.

As regards measles, this district has been subject to biennial fluctuation in the numbers of cases, and this year is not exceptional as it was exceeded in 1949 (338): as regards whooping-cough, however, there have not been so many notifications for ten years, the largest previously being in 1949 (61). There were a few cases of scarlet fever in each month of the year and twelve in December: and the majority of cases of this disease in the area were in this district as in the year before. There were six cases of paratyphoid fever (B) in a Babies Home possibly due to introduction of the infection by a new admission from another Home.

Information of a case of cow-pox was received. The man was a farm labourer employed in milking cows, two of which had the disease. The lesions were present on his hands and arms. Material was sent for examination to the Central Public Health Laboratory but proved negative, probably owing to the period of time which had elapsed since the commencement of the disease.

There were a dozen or more cases of Bornholm disease (acute pleuro-dynia). The Ministry of Health were interested but unfortunately information was received too late to make it worth while to send a Medical Officer down, as it was desired that he should see cases in the acute stage.

There was a case of swine fever (a pig which died) but no human cases.

The carrier case of paratyphoid (B) has at last become negative.

MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT.

The epidemic of measles was the heaviest experienced in the district for ten years (1942 - 357). Whooping-cough does not show the same amount of fluctuation, but was three to four times as great as any in the previous ten years except 1944 (117).

There were two cases admitted to hospital as poliomyelitis, but in neither was the diagnosis confirmed.

TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

The measles epidemic was higher than it had been since 1943 (310), and between those years the numbers were never greater than 42.

One case of paratyphoid (B) occurred supposed to be due to infected ham which on examination proved negative.

-----oOo-----

The majority of cases of measles were in the age group 5 - 9, suggesting that in many children the infection was contracted at school.

In the Cranbrook Rural District, Medical Practitioners were concerned about the infection of very young children with whooping-cough and the severity of the disease in those cases, and suggested that the Welfare Clinics in the villages concerned should be closed to limit the risk of infection. Correspondence took place with the County Medical Officer and the number of

/children





INFECTIOUS DISEASE (Contd.)

children notified in the school age groups and under were supplied to him. On consideration it was decided that no useful purpose in preventing infection would be served by the closure of the Clinics.

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It is much regretted that the Regional Hospital Board decided to close the admissions office at Tunbridge Wells, which had worked well and was much appreciated by doctors in the area.

There were no outbreaks of food-poisoning during the year and only two cases (one notified as dysentery).

An outbreak of influenza occurred early in the year but the number of cases was not exceptional.

Very little infectious disease was reported from hop-pickers' Camps.

In three districts it was decided to approach the proprietors of food shops, asking them to post notices requesting customers not to bring their dogs into the premises.

Since the war, there has been a decrease in cases of Scabies.

DIPHTHERIA The figures given below for the year were  
IMMUNISATION. kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer.

Age Groups.	TENTERDEN BOROUGH.	CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT.	MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT.	TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT.	WEALD HEALTH AREA.
Under 5 years.	51	173	264	99	587
5 - 14 years.	7	10	27	12	56
TOTALS	58	183	291	111	643
=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
REINFORCING INOCULATIONS	72	112	198	83	465
=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The total number immunised - for the first time - in the area was more than in the previous year (548) and the number who received supplementary doses was also increased (282).

There were no cases of diphtheria among children (or adults) in any of the districts.

The increase in the number of 'under fives' immunised was mainly in the Tenterden Rural District; and of supplementary inoculations in Tenterden Borough and the Rural Districts of Cranbrook and Tenterden.

/The



Infectious Disease (Contd.)

The numbers inoculated to date and percentages are as follows :-

TENTERDEN BOROUGH.	CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT.	MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT.	TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT.
643 72%	2059 57%	3508 85%	927 58%

which, with the exception of the Maidstone Rural District, is not so good as formerly. Cases and deaths from diphtheria have steadily decreased since 1942.

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VACCINATION. The numbers given by the County Medical Officer, of children vaccinated against smallpox are shown below :-

VACCINATION TABLE.

	TENTERDEN BOROUGH.	CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT.	MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT.	TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT.	TOTAL
(i) under 1 yr.	34	112	154	30	330
(ii) 1-4 yrs.	20	82	85	26	213
(iii) 5-14 yrs.	8	76	37	12	133
(iv) Over 15 yrs.	9	117	34	9	169
TOTALS	71	387	310	77	845
=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Revaccinated.	39	777	265	46	1127

The figures show improvement on those of the previous year, especially in the older age groups.





TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below shows the number of notifications, deaths and recoveries during the year :-

	NEW CASES.					RECOVERIES.					DEATHS.				
	Pulmon-ary.		Non-Pulmon-ary.		Total	Pulmon-ary.		Non-Pulmon-ary.		Total	Pulmon-ary.		Non-Pulmon-ary.		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
TENTERDEN BOROUGH.	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	1	1
CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT.	7	1	1	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3 <sup>0</sup>
MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT.	6	9	2	2	19	1	-	3	-	4	1*	2*	-	-	3
TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT.	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	-	-	3	3	1	-	-	4
WEALD HEALTH AREA.	14	10	5	3		3	1	3	2		7	3	-	1	
	24		8		32	4		5		9	10		1		11

0 One died from cerebral thrombosis and one from coronary thrombosis.

\* Two deaths of un-notified cases.

There was a decrease in cases notified in Tenterden Borough and Tenterden Rural District, and an increase in Cranbrook & Maidstone Rural Districts. The number in Tenterden Borough and Cranbrook Rural District is below the average (3.5 and 10.5 respectively), and in Tenterden Rural District less than one fifth of the average of the previous five years; whilst that in the Maidstone Rural District is above it (16.8).

The total for the Area is less than in any of the previous six years, and only 87% of the average (36.5).

The tendency still is for notifications to fall into the higher age groups more often than formerly.

Recoveries number much the same, but for the second successive year Cranbrook Rural District has none.

There is a decrease in the number of deaths as compared with that of the previous year (14).





HOP-PICKERS CAMPS.

shown below are the numbers of camps and pickers.

	Tenterden Borough.	Cranbrook Rural District.	Maidstone Rural District.	Tenterden Rural District.
Number of Camps	5	157	101	15
Estimated number of Pickers (non-resident).	500	14,000	30,000	1,000
Number of Huts	164	4,731	6,000	363
Number of Inspections.	10	433	437	62

TENTERDEN BOROUGH.

The camps were inspected before and during occupation. There was a general improvement in all camps.

CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT.

Inspections are made before and during hop-picking. There is some improvement in the lodging accommodation, but some very poor huts remain. 168 new huts were erected.

122 of the camps have a mains supply of water.

Scavenging again caused trouble. Fixed refuse bins would probably be better. Movable ones are either tipped out on the ground or taken away for some other purpose than intended.

Latrines are still fouled in many cases. Possibly the provision of lower seats might be helpful for children.

There has been improvement in supervision where a whole time man has been engaged.

MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT.

Inspections are made and notices served early in the year in order to give the farmers time to make the necessary improvements before hop-picking begins.

All huts have now been provided with concrete floors.

There has been general improvement in scavenging and less misuse of latrines.

A high standard of camp supervision has been maintained. Camps are also visited after occupation to ascertain that clearing of latrine pits has been done and general cleansing of the camps where necessary.

TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

Camps are visited before, during and after occupation.

There are many old huts of weather-boarding and/or corrugated iron. 54 new huts (situated in six different camps) have been erected, using concrete or breeze blocks with asbestos roofs.



HOP-PICKERS CAMPS (Contd.)  
Tenterden Rural District.

Eleven of the camps have mains water supply.

Pickers cause trouble by misuse of the refuse bins. Misuse of latrines was rather less often noticeable. These are mainly earth closets but are gradually being replaced by more up-to-date ones.

Most of the camps in this district are small and are supervised by the farmer himself.

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Misuse of refuse bins and of latrines remains, also untidiness of the camps in some cases, but this shows improvement on past years.

There was again very little infectious disease, in spite of the fact that the population of the area is doubled during hop-picking time, and that pickers do not in all cases help to keep conditions in the camps as they might be.

A complaint was received from pickers who came over to the hop-garden daily that no latrines were provided in the fields. This matter was considered by the Public Health Committee of the district concerned. As there is nothing in the bye-laws to compel this, it was decided to approach farmers informally in the bigger camps with a view to the provision of some latrines in the hop-fields.

The districts were visited as usual by a Medical Officer from the Ministry of Health.

"The Ministry expressed their appreciation of the continued improvement in the provision made, evidence of much co-operation between the Councils concerned, their health officers and the hop growers. This improvement achieved by the majority of growers makes it seem only fair to expect the minority who lag behind to bring their camps up to the same standard.

With a view to further progress being achieved, the attention of the Authorities was invited to the following points :-

- (a) the desirability in every case of proper and sufficient means of ventilation and lighting by natural means as required by model bye-law 3(iii). The necessity that this provision should be independent of the open doorway is evident in wet weather such as was experienced during this year's hop-picking.
- (b) that a few pegs for clothes and shelves for storing food, etc. in the huts greatly add to the comfort and convenience of the pickers.
- (c) the desirability of dry impervious floors, which can be kept clean, in both huts and cook-houses.
- (d) that the reservation of individual latrines by groups of families who are friends and desire to look after their own sanitary offices should be encouraged and facilitated."







HOP-PICKERS CAMPS (Contd.)

The Public Health Committees concerned considered this report and decided that the points raised be implemented so far as possible under the Bye-laws, or where not possible, an informal approach be made to the farmers with a view to improvements.

As regards (a) especially, it would be of assistance if, not only notice, as at present, of intention to build huts but also the deposit of plans with the Local Authority, were compulsory.

In one case a farmer put up corrugated iron huts, rather similar to Nissen huts but much smaller. On inspection it was found that there was no means of ventilation or of the access of light except when the door was opened. Notice was given for alteration to comply with the bye-laws. The additional expense of alteration could have been avoided if plans had been submitted before building the huts.

Medical arrangements are made by various voluntary organisations under the auspices of the Kent Council of Social Service. A large amount of work is accomplished.

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PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

During the year a number of old people were kept under observation to make sure that they had not become incapable of looking after themselves unassisted.

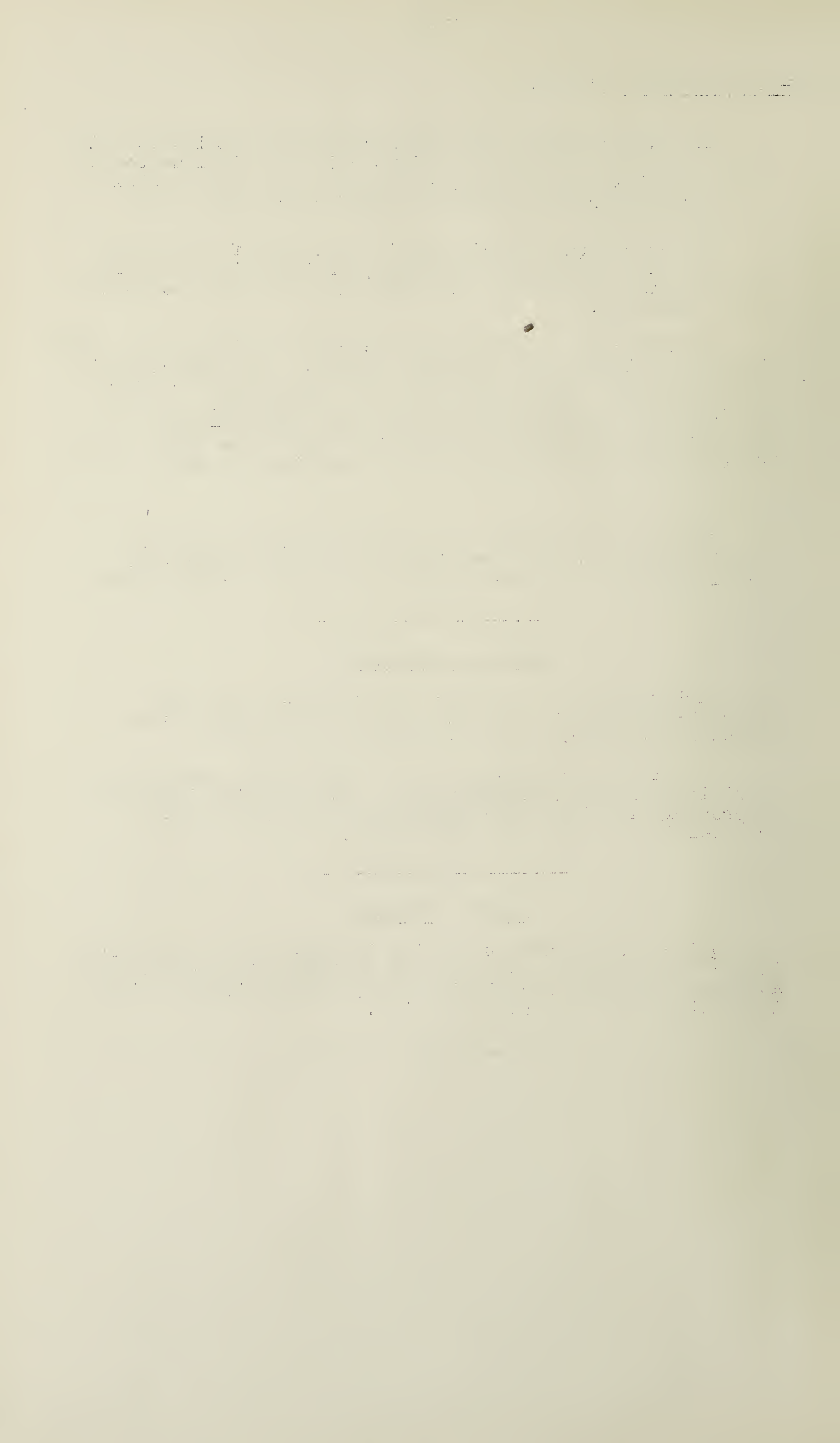
One old man was removed to an Institution under the provisions of the Assistance Act. He was quite incapable of properly looking after himself and prevented others from helping to keep the house clean.

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RODENT CONTROL.

Quite a large amount of time is spent by the Sanitary Inspectors and Rodent Controllers in inspecting premises and applying treatment for killing rats, and in giving advice in dealing with both rats and mice.

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INSPECTIONS BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

	TENTERDEN BOROUGH			CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT			MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT			TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT			WEALD HEALTH AREA		
	Number	Visits	Defects	Number	Visits	Defects	Number	Visits	Defects	Number	Visits	Defects	Number	Visits	Defects
Bakehouses ...	2	5	-	12	36	7	8	14	-	8	21	-	30	76	7
Slaughterhouses.	2	5	-	12	21	2	2	85	-	5	57	-	21	168	2
Other food preparing places	-	-	-	53	73	34	125	120	10	19	35	2	197	228	46
Factories & Workshops ...	8	7	1	87	64	22	27	51	12	50	114	1	172	236	36
Workplaces ...	-	-	-	25	53	1	-	-	-	8	20	-	33	73	1

The following gives a summary of the four Returns made for the year under the Factories Act, 1937.

	TENTERDEN BOROUGH			CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT.			MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT.			TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT.		
	Number	Inspec-tions.	Written Notices	Number	Inspec-tions.	Written Notices	Number	Inspec-tions.	Written Notices	Number	Inspec-tions.	Written Notices
(i) Factories under Sects.1,2,3,4 & 6 .....	8	10	-	50	31	-	14	15	-	22	41	-
(ii) Factories (not included above) Sect. 7).....	-	-	-	37	33	4	49	51	8	28	73	1
(iii) Other premises (excluding out-worker premises)	-	-	-	25	53	-	-	-	-	8	20	-
TOTAL ....	8	10	-	112	117	4	63	66	8	58	134	1
DEFECTS.	F.	R.	HMI	F.	R.	HMI.	F.	R.	HMI.	F.	R.	HMI.
Want of cleanliness ..	-	-	-	12	12	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
SANITARY CONVENIENCES.												
(a) Insufficient .	1	1	-	3	3	1	1	1	-	1	1	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	-	-	-	8	8	4	1	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not relating to homework)	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	-	-	-	-
							(fire Sect. 34)					
TOTAL ....	1	1	-	23	23	6	8	7	1	1	1	1

N.B. F = number found. R = remedied. HMI - referred by H.M. Inspector





INSPECTIONS BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

	Tenterden Borough	Cranbrook R.D.	Maidstone R.D.	Tenterden R.D.
OVERCROWDING	-	3	2	4
KEEPING OF ANIMALS	1	7	11	-
SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (insufficient or defective)	8	59	58	18
DRAINAGE (reconstructed or repaired).	9	113	97	37
CESSPOOLS				
Abolished	1	2	15	-
Repaired	-	6	41	3
Emptied	2	298	4435 (loads)	32
OFFENSIVE ACCUMULATIONS	1	4	12	5
REFUSE RECEPTACLES	-	29	28	-
YARD PAVING	1	9	31	-
DAMPNESS	4	37	32	12
ROOFS & RAINWATER PIPES	3	37	42	14
FLOORS	4	16	20	5
WALLS & CEILINGS	4	39	36	24
WINDOWS & VENTILATION	2	19	44	17
BATHS, LAVATORY BASINS, SINKS	3	38	21	11
WATER SUPPLIES	6	79	235	3
MISCELLANEOUS	121	145	139	41

FOOD CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR

TENTERDEN BOROUGH			CRANBROOK R.D.			MAIDSTONE R.D.				TENTERDEN R.D.		
Cwt.	Qt.	lb.	Cwt.	Qt.	lb.	Tons	Cwt.	Qt.	lb.	Cwt.	Qt.	lb.
6	-	6	7	3	-	1	6	-	-	9	2	-

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

TENTERDEN BOROUGH	CRANBROOK R.D.	MAIDSTONE R.D.	TENTERDEN R.D.
298	2588	4304	2599



